

Serial No.: 10/766,921
Docket No. GNE518US
ARI.027

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REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-28 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Applicants thank the Examiner for the courteous and productive telephone interviews on January 19 and 20, 2006, in which the Examiner indicated the above changes would place the case into condition for allowance.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 1 and 3-28 would be allowable if claim 2 were incorporated into claim 1. No new matter has been added.

It is noted that the claim amendments herein are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims, or for any statutory requirements of patentability.

Further, it is noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein, Applicants' intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements, even if amended herein or later during prosecution.

FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In response to Examiner's objections to the Drawings, Applicants file herewith an annotated and replacement sheet for Figure 1 labeling the figure as "PRIOR ART".

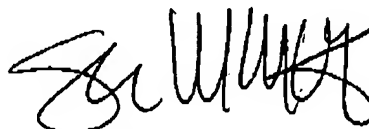
In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 3-28, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees or to credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully submitted,



Sean M. McGinn, Esq.
Registration No.: 34,386



Date:

1/26/06

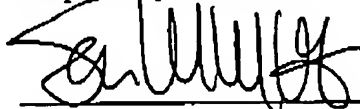
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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this Preliminary Amendment via facsimile, to Group Art Unit 2818, at (571) 273-8300, on January 26, 2006.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sean M. McGinn, Esq.
Reg. No. 34,386

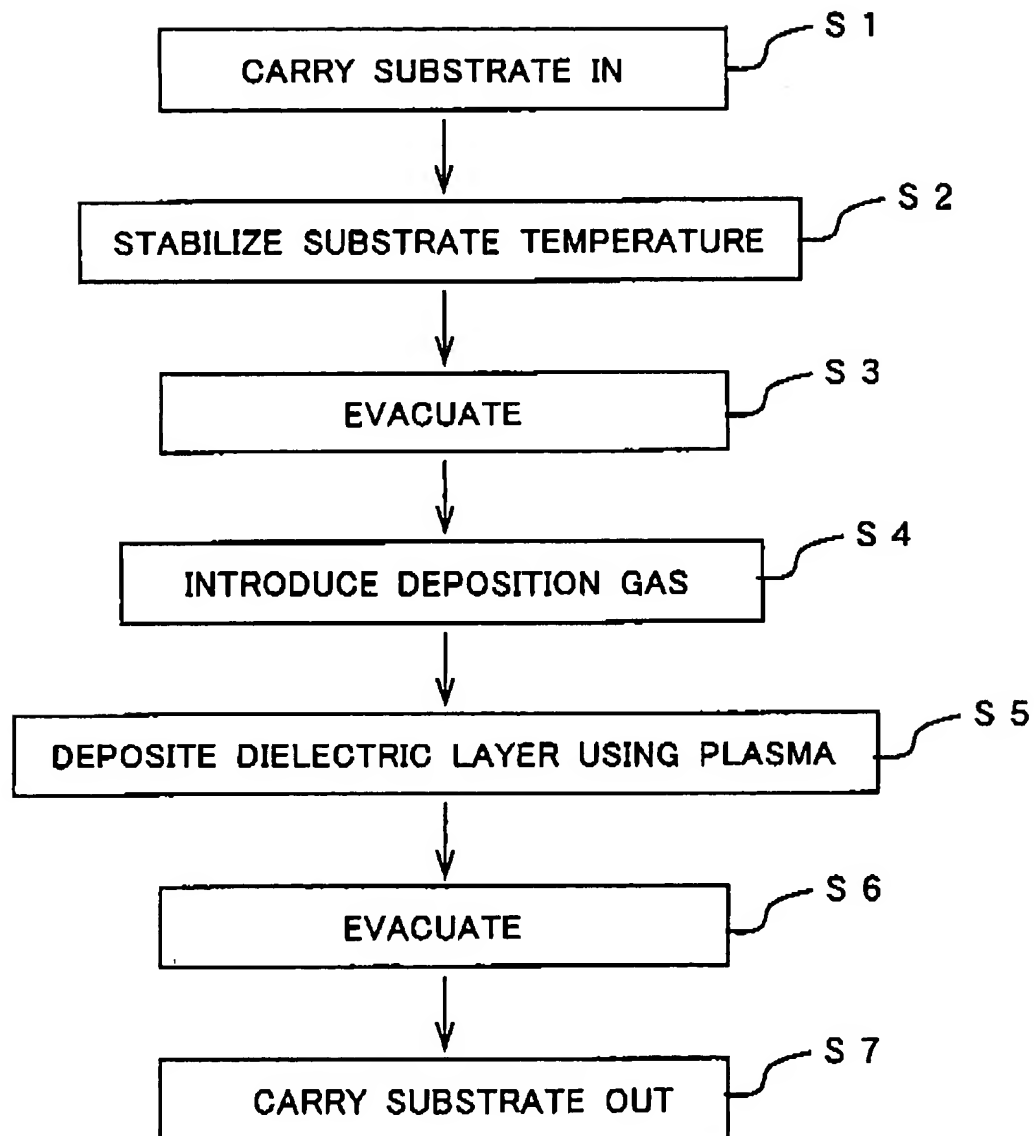
Date:

1/26/06

Application Serial No. 10/766,921
Formal Drawings - Annotated Sheet
Preliminary Amendment

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FIG. 1



PRIOR ART